

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICA: EXCLUSIVE PRESS INTERVIEW WITH
PRIME MINISTER VORSTER; THE CLUB OF TEN

1. DAILY TELEGRAPH ON JUNE 11 CARRIED EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW BY IAN COLVIN WITH SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER DEALING WITH SOUTH AFRICA'S RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS AND WITH UNITED KINGDOM. PRINCIPAL POINTS MADE BY VORSTER WERE: A) SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT AFFECTED BY EVENTS IN PORTUGUESE AFRICAN TERRITORIES, AND DOES NOT WISH TO PRESCRIBE WHAT SORT OF GOVERNMENT OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE BUT WOULD PROTECT ITS INTEGRITY AND INTERESTS WITH ALL THE MEANS AT ITS POWER IF THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF INDEPENDENT MOZAMBIQUE BROUGHT IN COMMUNIST DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND WORKED FOR THE OVERTHROW OF OTHER SOUTHERN AFRICAN STATES SUCH AS RHODESIA, SOUTH AFRICA; B) SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT SINCE ITS INCEPTION AND HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES (UNSPECIFIED) WHICH SAG HAD ACCEPTED;
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C) SOUTH AFRICA HAS NO QUARREL WITH EMERGING TERRI-

TORIES OF ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE AND IS ANXIOUS AND PREPARED TO MAINTAIN ECONOMIC LINKS WITH THEM; D) BIG POWERS SHOULD TAKE NOTE OF DRAMATIC GROWTH OF COMMUNIST NAVAL POWER IN THE INDIAN OCEAN WHICH POSES THREAT TO THE CAPE SEA ROUTE, ONE OF THE LIFELINES OF EUROPE AND THE FREE WORLD; E) IT IS FOOLISH FOR ANY BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO DENY ITSELF THE OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY THE SIMONS-TOWN BASE AND IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF BRITAIN TO MAINTAIN ITSELF THERE; F) AS FAR AS SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED, THEY HAVE NO INTENTIONS TO CLAMP DOWN ON MUTUAL TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN; G) IT DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON THE THREAT AND THE FORM IT TAKES WHETHER THE FRONTIER DEFENSE OF SOUTH AFRICA IS ON THE ZAMBEZI OR ON SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONAL FRONTIERS. SOUTH AFRICA IS NOT ON THE ZAMBEZI TO DEFEND RHODESIA BUT TO "PULL OUR OWN CHESTNUTS OUT OF THE FIRE"; H) THE RHODESIAN MINISTER OF TRANSPORT HAS DISCUSSED A BRANCH RAILWAY LINE FROM BEIT BRIDGE TO LINK WITH THE RHODESIAN RAILWAY SYSTEM BUT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS SEEN NO REPORT ON THEIR DISCUSSIONS ALTHOUGH THERE WOULD BE NOTHING ABNORMAL IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PLANNING FOR THE BEST POSSIBLE RAIL LINKS; I) SOUTH AFRICA NEVER HAD ANY DEFENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE CAETANO GOVERNMENT AND HAVE NEVER BEEN ACTIVE IN ANY PART OF MOZAMBIQUE; J) THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA'S POSITION ON SOUTH WEST AFRICA AND PEOPLES OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA WILL DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE.

2. IN ADDRESSING HIS FOREIGN CRITICS VORSTER IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID "WHY DON'T THEY SHOW A REAL INTEREST IN THE EARNINGS AND WELFARE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIVE POPULATION AND MAKE A COMPARISON BETWEEN THEM AND THE EARNINGS OF PEOPLE ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA AND THE WORLD?" IN THIS CONNECTION THE GUARDIAN FOR JUNE 12 CARRIES A FULL-PAGE ADVERTISEMENT CRITICIZING A SERIES OF ARTICLES WHICH APPEARED EARLIER IN THAT PAPER ON BLACK WAGES IN SOUTH AFRICA. A SIMILAR ADVERTISEMENT HAD ALREADY APPEARED IN THE TIMES AND THE OBSERVER. THE ADVERTISEMENTS WERE SIGNED BY THE CLUB OF TEN WHICH GAVE A POST OFFICE BOX ADDRESS IN LONDON. GUARDIAN EDITORIAL FOR THE SAME UNCLASSIFIED

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DAY CLAIMS THAT "BECAUSE THE CLUB OF TEN WILL NOT IDENTIFY ITSELF THERE IS A LEGITIMATE SUPPOSITION THAT ITS MONEY COMES FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT." OTHER PRESS COMMENT CLAIMS THAT FORMER BRITISH LAWYER AND JUDGE GERALD SPARROW IS MAN BEHIND CLUB OF TEN ADVERTISEMENTS.

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